

Appn. No. 09/833,017
Amendment/Reply Dated November 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 3, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously presented). The polypeptide of claim 24 comprising a *S.mutans* competence signal peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

24. (Previously presented). An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 and having *S.mutans* competence signal peptide activity.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously presented) An isolated recombinant polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 which has *S.mutans* competence signal peptide activity.

27-41. (Canceled).

3 42. (Previously presented). A synthetic polypeptide having competence-signal-peptide activity and comprising the 21-amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 having competence signal peptide activity.

43-68. (Canceled).

4 69 An isolated *S.mutans* polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:4 which has competence signal peptide activity.